

# Media Advisory

## *DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 2, 2015

**Contact:**

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### **Celebrate Nebraska and Iowa Archaeology Months at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge**

**When:** 11:00 am on Sunday, September 6, 2015  
**Where:** DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge's Visitor Center  
**Who:** Contact DeSoto Visitor Services at (712) 388-4800

In celebration of Nebraska Archaeology Month, join us on Sunday, September 6 at 11:00 am at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge's Visitor Center to learn the story of the steamboat *Bertrand* and its connection to the Missouri River. Listen to a curator's presentation, *Unexpected Treasure*, to learn about the discovery and excavation of the wreck site in 1968-1969, the preservation of its cargo, and then browse the museum collection exhibits and artifacts. Afterwards, join a ranger on a visit to the steamboat *Bertrand* discovery site to learn how westward expansion brought about dramatic changes and impacts to the wildlife and natural habitats of the Missouri River Valley. Learn about wetland and river habitat restoration and how the refuge works to support healthy floodplain habitats that benefit wildlife. Refuge resources and the story of the *Bertrand* foster an appreciation for the refuge's role in conserving the river's unique natural history.

Steamboats like the *Bertrand* played a vital role in our nation's westward expansion by providing an economical way of transporting supplies to new frontier communities. The collection of cargo on this steamboat from 1865 was of items and supplies that settlers would need to survive on the post-Civil War frontier. The amazing preservation and assortment of foods, clothing, tools, and other everyday items truly makes this artifact collection of extraordinary significance to the American people.

DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge is located in both Nebraska and Iowa. *Unexpected Treasure* will be presented on Sunday, September 6 for Nebraska Archaeology Month. A second program, *A Moment Frozen in Time: Artifacts from the Bertrand Collection* will be offered on Sunday, September 13 for Iowa Archaeology Month and will give participants a more detailed account of many of the artifacts found during the excavation of the steamboat *Bertrand*.

DeSoto & Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges are located north of Omaha, Nebraska. DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge is located south of U.S. Highway 30 between Missouri Valley, Iowa and Blair, Nebraska. Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge, managed by staff at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, is located east of U.S. Highway 75 near Ft. Calhoun, Nebraska. Check our websites, [www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/desoto/) or [www.fws.gov/refuge/boyer\\_chute/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/boyer_chute/), for refuge updates. Like us on Facebook - search for DeSoto and Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuges. For more information please contact 712/388-4800 or email the refuge at [desoto@fws.gov](mailto:desoto@fws.gov).

The mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

